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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,895	09/24/2003	Jean-Jacques L'Henaff	817-196	2248

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EXAMINER

ESTRADA, ANGEL R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2831

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/669,895

Applicant(s)

L'HENAFF ET AL.

Examiner

Angel R. Estrada

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1 and 14-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-13 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/26/04.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 2-13 in the reply filed on November 10, 2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the claims in each species are so related that they should all be included in a single patent, furthermore the applicant states that the restriction should be withdrawn because the Examiner has not identified any different classes or subclasses into which the present invention defined by the claims should be restricted. This is not found persuasive because a species restriction is a restriction of related subject matter with different invention or embodiment, as stated in the restriction there are four different species each one with a different search, for example in claim 1 the signal management requires a channel for routing electrical wires therein and for securing electrical wires in place, none of the others species requires the channel for routing wires, so the search of claim 1 is different from the search of claims 2, 14 and 17. Furthermore, in a species restriction the Examiner doesn't have to identify any different classes or subclasses. In the case that all claims are directed to the same class, the Examiner does not have to search all claims if they are directed to different inventions or embodiments. Applicant is directed to the restriction requirement mailed on October 26, 2004 for explanation on the differences between claims and what makes it a species restriction.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed on January 26, 2004 has been considered by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crosby, Jr. et al (US 6.259.850, hereinafter Crosby).

Regarding claim 2, Crosby discloses a signal management (SM) electronics housing (10), which comprises: a housing structure (12) which defines an enclosure for containing therein electronic circuitry (see figure 1-3), the housing structure being mountable on a supporting structure (see figure 4 or column 2 lines 55-61), the housing structure having at least two opposite walls (see figure 1, defined by flange 34), each of the at least two opposite walls (34) having formed therein at least one open slot (not shown); and a plurality of connectors (36), each connector of the plurality of connectors being receivable in a corresponding one of the open slots (see figure 1), the connectors (36) being attachable to the supporting structure (see figure 4) to selectively secure the electronics housing thereto (column 2 lines 55-61).

Regarding claim 3, Crosby discloses the signal management (SM) electronics housing (10), wherein at least one of the connectors (36) of the plurality of connectors is a locking connector (column 2 lines 58-61), the locking connector (36) being selectively configurable in a first configuration, wherein the locking connector (36) allows the electronics housing (10) to be selectively mounted to and unmounted from the supporting structure (column 2 lines 55-61), and a second configuration, wherein the locking connector (36) secures the electronics housing to the supporting structure (column 2 lines 55-61).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 4-13 are:

Regarding claims 4-7, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations the locking connector including a main connector body, and a pin extending from and rotatably mounted on the main connector body, the pin including a camming surface, the pin being received in an opening formed in the supporting structure when the electronics housing is mounted thereon, the pin being selectively rotatable such that the camming surface thereof engages an edge of

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the supporting structure defining the opening to secure the electronics housing to the supporting structure.

Regarding claim 8, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations at least one of the connectors of the plurality of connectors being a locking connector, and wherein at least another of the connectors of the plurality of connectors is a passive connector, the locking connector including a main connector body and a pin extending from and rotatably mounted on the main connector body, the pin including a camming surface, the pin being received in a first opening formed in the supporting structure when the electronics housing is mounted thereon, the passive connector including a main connector body and at least one pin extending from and non-rotatably mounted on the main connector body thereof, the at least one non-rotatable pin including a camming surface, the at least one non-rotatable pin of the passive connector being received in a second opening formed in the supporting structure when the electronics housing is mounted thereon, the pin of the locking connector being selectively rotatable such that the camming surface thereof engages an edge of the supporting structure defining the first opening and causing the camming surface of the at least one non-rotatable pin of the passive connector to engage an edge of the supporting structure defining the second opening to secure the electronics housing to the supporting structure.

Regarding claims 9 and 10, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations the passive connector including a main connector body and at least two flanges extending outwardly in opposite directions from

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the main connector body, and a pair of spaced apart pins, one pin of the pair of pins being mounted on and extending from one flange of the at least two flanges, and the other pin of the pair of pins being mounted on and extending from the other flange of the at least two flanges, each pin of the pair of pins having a slot formed over a portion of the circumference thereof, each slot defining a camming surface, the passive connector being selectively received in one of the open slots of the housing structure, each pin of the pair of pins being received in a respective opening formed in the supporting structure when the electronics housing is mounted thereon, the camming surface of each pin engaging an edge of the supporting structure defining the respective opening in which the pin is received to secure the electronics housing to the supporting structure.

Regarding claim 11, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations the passive connector having a main connector body, at least two flanges extending in opposite directions from the main connector body, and a pin centrally located on the main connector body and extending therefrom, the passive connector being selectively received in one of the open slots of the housing structure, the pin being received in an opening formed in the supporting structure when the electronics housing is mounted thereon, each flange of the at least two flanges resting on a surface of the supporting structure when the electronics housing is mounted thereon and providing stability to the electronics housing when the electronics housing is mounted on the supporting structure.

Regarding claims 12 and 13, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations, wherein at least one connector of the plurality of connectors is a passive connector, and wherein at least another connector of the plurality of connectors is an active locking connector, the passive connector having a main connector body and at least one non-rotatable pin mounted on and extending from the main connector body, the active locking connector having a main connector body and a rotatable pin rotatably mounted on and extending from the main connector body of the active locking connector; and wherein the at least one open slot formed in each wall of the at least two opposite walls may selectively receive one of the passive connector, the active locking connector and a fastener.

These limitations were found in claims 4-13, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Larson et al (US 5,975,769), Brostrom (US 6,728,098), Lewis (US 6,444,906), Anton (US 5,093,885), Cafferty et al (US 6,826,058), Hannula (US 6,122,160), Ott et al (US 6,353,183), Janus et al (US 6,445,865), Smith et al (US 6,597,576), Franz et al (US 6,574,121), Hurst et al (US 6,547,587) and Rodgers et al (US 4,800,465) disclose an electronic signal mounting assembly.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext: 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AE

January 21, 2005

 1/24/05
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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